

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

METHODS OF DIAGNOSING ATHEROSCLEROSIS BY MEASURING APOCI

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a 371 national stage application of PCT/US04/16419, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/539,769, filed on January 28, 2004, and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/473,224, filed on May 23, 2003. The entire contents of each of these applications is incorporated herein by this reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 9A-9[[O]]P depict immunohistochemical analysis of apoptotic markers in atherosclerotic lesions post venom. Representative immunohistochemical stainings from animals of group 1 (Figures 9A-9D and 9I-9L) and group 2 with a ruptured plaque (Figures 9E-9H and 9M-9P). Note the strong positive immunohistochemical staining in the group 2 animals adjacent to the ruptured plaque shown in Figure 8 for ApoCI (Figure 9F), ceramide (Figure 9G), caspase-1 (Figure 9H), caspase-3 (Figure 9M). See spots indicated by arrows (Figures 9N and 9O) documenting macrophages, ASMCs and a few apoptotic cells in the group 2 animals adjacent to the ruptured plaque.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 12A-D depict[[s]] MALDI-TOF MS of ApoC1-enriched HDL and normal HDL. ApoC1-enriched HDL (~~top~~ panels A and B) and normal HDL (~~bottom~~ panels C and D) were isolated from plasma of a group 3 infant (left panels A and C) and group 0 infant (~~right~~ panels B and D) and prepared for MALDI-TOF MS.